

Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS) Short Form

Choose the best answer for how you have felt over the past week:

1. Are you basically satisfied with your life?	Yes	No
2. Have you dropped many of your activities and interests?	Yes	No
3. Do you feel that your life is empty?	Yes	No
4. Do you often get bored?	Yes	No
5. Are you in good spirits most of the time?	Yes	No
6. Are you afraid that something bad is going to happen to you?	Yes	No
7. Do you feel happy most of the time?	Yes	No
8. Do you often feel helpless?	Yes	No
9. Do you prefer to stay at home rather than going out and doing new things?	Yes	No
10. Do you feel you have more problems with memory than most?	Yes	No
11. Do you think it is wonderful to be alive now?	Yes	No
12. Do you feel pretty worthless the way you are now?	Yes	No
13. Do you feel full of energy?	Yes	No
14. Do you feel that your situation is hopeless?	Yes	No
15. Do you think that most people are better off than you are?	Yes	No

Scoring for Geriatric Depression Scale

Score 1 point for every “yes” in questions 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, and 15.

Score 1 point for every “no” in questions 1, 5, 7, 11, and 13.

A total score greater than 5 suggests the need to see a doctor.

If you have any concerns about your response, call the doctor for further testing. There is a good reason to seek medical help. There are many effective ways to treat depression in older adults.

Source: Sheikh, J. I., & Yesavage, J. A. (1986). Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS): Recent evidence and development of a shorter version. *Clinical Gerontologist*, 5(1-2), 165–173.